

5 **PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROPYLENE GLYCOL**

ABSTRACT

10 The invention relates to a process for the
preparation of propylene glycol from propylene oxide,
which process involves:

(a) contacting propylene oxide with carbon dioxide in
the presence of catalyst to obtain a first reaction
mixture containing propylene carbonate, and

15 (b) contacting at least part of the first reaction
mixture with water in the presence of catalyst to
obtain a second reaction mixture containing propylene
glycol and carbon dioxide,

20 in which process a substantial amount of propylene
oxide is present in step (b).